



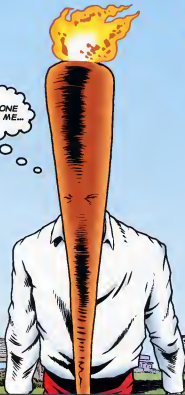
FLAMING
CARROT
31

\$2.99 US
\$3.99 CAN

FLAMING CARROT COMICS™



FEEL SOMEONE
FOLLOWING ME...



HERBIE IN ALAS POOR CARROT!

ALL RIGHT,
MR. CHICKEN PANTS!
I'M GOING TO WRAP THAT
HORN AROUND YOUR
SKINNY NECK!

THE ONLY WAY TO
GO BACK IN TIME AND
PROVE THAT SHAKESPEARE
DID NOT WRITE ALL HIS PLAYS
ALONE IS WITH THIS STRANGE,
OOO BALL SUPERHERO!
...BUT HE IS SO...
SO GOOFY!



ART & STORY:

BOB BURDEN

LETTERING: **SHANNON T. STEWART**

ASSISTANTS: **GABRIELLE GREENE
& JOHN EATON**



...AND IN FACT MANY CRITICS HAVE POSTULATED THAT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DID NOT WRITE ALL THE PLAYS AND SONNETS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. PERHAPS NONE OF THEM. IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, A NUMBER OF NOTED SCHOLARS HAVE PROPOSED THAT THEY WERE REALLY WRITTEN BY FRANCIS BACON, CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE, OR A SERIES OF PEOPLE WHO SHARED THE SAME BARBER...

PROFESSOR DOGWOOD!!
I'VE CAUGHT YOU RED-
HANDED THIS TIME!

ER...
PRINCIPAL JENKINS/
YOU WERE LISTENING
OUTSIDE...



SEE HERE, PROFESSOR!!
THERE'LL BE NO MORE OF THIS
REVISIONIST HISTORY IN THIS
ENGLISH CLASS! WHAT HOG-
WASH! WHY EVERYONE KNOWS
THAT SHAKESPEARE IS
SHAKESPEARE!



YES! WHY WOULD
SOMEBODY WRITE
THE GREATEST LIT-
ERATURE IN THE ENGL-
ISH LANGUAGE UNDER
AN ASSUMED NAME?



AND WHO'S THIS
PICTURE IN THE FRONT?

TAKE A LOOK/
IT'S SHAKESPEARE/
EVEN I CAN SEE THAT!



GOOD HEAVENS, PROFESSOR! THESE HALLOWED HALLS OF IVY AND
TRADITION AT RANDALL P. MCMURPHY HIGH WILL NOT BROADCAST SUCH
BANAL NONSENSE!! THIS MALARKY IS TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR!!

ER, BUT...

ALL RIGHT THAT'S IT
YOU'RE FIRED!



AFTER SCHOOL...

POOR
PROFESSOR DOGWOOD.
IS A GOOD TEACHER.
MUST HELP HIM!



KNOCK/ KNOCK/
PROFESSOR?

PAUL YORICK
DOGWOOD
214 SENECA AVE



NO ANSWER.
MAY HAVE ALREADY
COMMITTED SUICIDE...THESE
ENGLISH TEACHERS CAN
BE SENSITIVE TYPES.



SOME NOISE
IN BACK...



ALAS, POOR YORICK/
FOR I KNEW HIM,
HORATIO...

IS BAD...TALKING TO
GRAPEFRUIT, MAYBE I
BETTER GO BACK OUT AND
KNOCK MORE LOUDLY...



HEY
PROFESSOR
DOGWOOD!







PAY DIRT AT THE DAYTONA 500,
WHERE FATHER TIME AND HIS PIT
CREW ARE IN THE THICK OF IT!

HEY! FATHER TIME!

WELL, LET'S SEE, THERE'RE ONLY
THREE OF THOSE GRANDFATHER
CLOCKS LEFT IN SERVICE. THERE'S
THAT ONE ON THE WEST COAST,
THERE'S YOURS, WHICH YOU BROKE,
AND THE NEAREST ONE IS IN IRON
CITY! IT BELONGS TO A BLUE-
COLLAR SUPERHERO CALLED
FLAMING CARROT!

WHAT KIND OF NAME IS
THAT FOR A COSTUMED
AVENGER?
FLAMING CARROT?

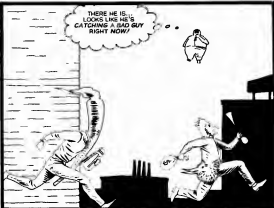
IN IRON CITY...

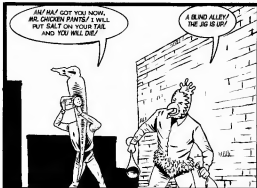
YEAH! YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE
WHO'D BE LOOKING FOR FLAMING
CARROT! YOU SHOULD FIND HIM
DOWN IN PALOOKAVILLE, THAT'S
OUR TENDERLOIN DISTRICT...

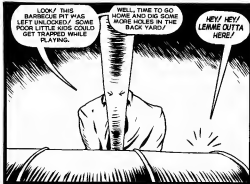
TENDERLOIN?

YEAH, THE SLUMS/
SAID ROW! RUMMYTOWN!
IF HE'S UP THIS EARLY IN THE
DAY, THAT MEANS HE PROBABLY
WASN'T GONE
TO BED YET!

THERE HE IS.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S
CATCHING A BAD GUY
RIGHT NOW!











Chapter 2

THE BOOBS OF AVON

FORSOOTH! WHAT
LIGHT THROUGH YON
WINDOW BREAKS?

HEY! SHUT
UP DOWN THERE!
I'M TRYIN' TO GET
A LITTLE SHUT-
EYE!





GARSH! SHUCKS!
YUP...I WAS AT
THAT!



...AND NO MORE SHALT THOU
DO THE "PULL MY FINGER" TRICK
ON THE FAIR AND MODEST MAIDENS
IN THIS ESTABLISHMENT OR THOU
SHALT BE THROWN OUT ON
THY EARSEST!



HAR! HAR!
GOLL-LEEE!
I DIST LANKS
TA HAVE A LIT
FUN NOW AN'
THEN!

GREAT SCOTT! COULD THIS HICK,
THIS DOORISH HAYSEED, THIS COUNTRY
BUMPKIN BE WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE?
...THE BARD OF AVON AND GREAT
MUN OF LETTERS?!



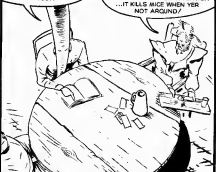
HEY! ARE YOU...ER, I MEAN...ART
THOU WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,
THE PLAYWRIGHT?



"AT'S ME, YESSIR! BILLY BOB'S MUH NAME
AND PLAYWRIGHTIN'S MUH GAME! YUH WANT A
PLAY WRIT?...DOWN! RIGHT UP! WANT THE HORSES
SHOO, THE BARN PAINTED, A WELL DUG? WELL AH'M
YER MAN/AH ALSO SELL FRENCH POSTCARDS!!
LOOKIT THESE BABES, HAR!



WHAT'S THIS? INVENTIONS?
YOU'RE AN INVENTOR
TOO?!

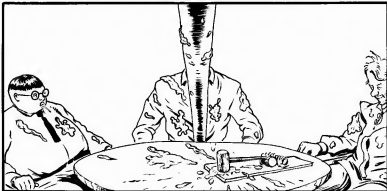


AH'M WHAT YOU'D CALL AN
ENTERPRISING IN-DEE-VID-YOOL!
HERE'S MUH LATEST INVENTION
...IT KILLS MICE WHEN YER
NOT AROUND!

KILLS
THEM?

YEAH! SPLATTERS THEIR
BRAINS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
WATCH THIS TRIFLE!*

*TRIFLE: A BRITISH DESSERT MADE OF CUSTARD,
CAKE, FRUIT, AND WHIPPED CREAM. ED.



HHMM...

WELL, IT'S A
LITTLE MESSY...

WHAT ABOUT PLAYS?
HEARD YOU WERE A PLAYWRIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT THAT?





PLAYS/... HERE YOU GO... /
THIS ONE'S ABOUT A GUY NAMED
WILBUR WHO HAS A TALKING HORSE...
AND IN THIS ONE, A BUNCH A PEOPLE
GO OUT FOR A THREE-HOUR TOUR ON
A FISHING BOAT, BUT A STORM
COMES AND THEY'RE MARDOONED
ON A DESERT ISLAND AND...



THIS IS MUH FAVORITE...
AS A LITTLE KID, THIS GUY
HAS HIS PARENTS KILLED BY
CRIMINALS AND WHEN HE
GROWS UP HE FIGHTS CRIME
DRESSED UP AS A BAT SO
HE SCARES THEM...

YES/ CRIMINALS ARE
A SUPERSTITIOUS AND
COWARDLY LOT/



BUT WHAT ABOUT MACBETH,
AND THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
AND HAMLET...?



HMM... NOW YOU'RE TALKIN' /
I LARN THEM TITLES/ LEARN WORK
ON 'EM TONIGHT AND MEET ME BACK
HERE TOMORROW /... RAIGHT NOW
I GOTTA SKEE-DADDLE OFF TO
MY ONE FULL-TIME GIG/

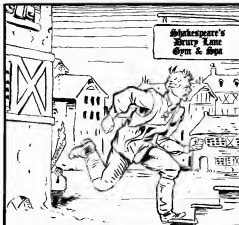


NO WAY, HOGAY /
THAT RUBE DID NOT PEN
HAMLET OR MACBETH /

LET'S FOLLOW /



TIME FOR
DISGUISE
KIT /



HOLDETH IT RIGHT
THERE, VARLETS!



OH NO!...SHAKESPEARE LEFT
US WITH THE TAB AND THEY
DON'T TAKE VISA IN
THIS PLACE!



LATER, BACK AT SHAKESPEARE'S...

YEAH, HE'S IN THERE, WRITING
UP A STORM!...GOT SOME DARK
FIGURE IN A CLOAK WITH HIM!

MAYBE THAT'S
THE DARK LADY OF
HIS SONNETS!



...AND THEN HE SEES
THIS LIGHT A-COMIN'
THROUGH THIS HERE
BROKE WINDOW...

NAH... YOU GOTTA MAKE
IT MORE POETIC/ YA GOTTA
HAVE SOME FLAIR!

LET'S TRY AND JUICE THIS
UP HERE! "HARK/ WHAT LIGHT
THROUGH YONDER WINDOW
BREAKS?"



THERE YA GO LITTLE BUDDY...
THA'S JUS' EGGS-ZAKLY WHUT
AH MEANT!



TAKE
PICTURES
NOW!



YEAH/ I SEE/ THAT DOES SOUND
BETTER!...MORE EDUCATED/
MORE HIGHFALUTIN'!



LET'S BUST 'EM
RIGHT NOW!

NO! NO! THIS IS NOT A CRIME!...THOSE
TWO ARE CREATING SOME OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST LITERATURE/ WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO DISTURB ONE SECOND OF THEIR TIME
TOGETHER...OR SCARE THE
MYSTERY GUY OFF!

OH!



LATER.

MYSTERY FIGURE
LEAVES THROUGH
SECRET PASSAGE...

BUT
WHO IS
HE?

LOOK AT FOOTPRINT!
LOOK WHAT IT SAYS
THERE!

UNDERNEATH THE DARK
CAPE AND HOOD IS SOMEONE
WEARING NIKES!

SOMEONE
FROM THE FUTURE
JUST LIKE US!

HE MUST BE FROM OUR TIME, AND MUST HAVE
THE THIRD GRANDFATHER CLOCK!...IS OUR
ONLY WAY BACK TO OUR OWN TIME!

THERE HE
GOES!

NO, NO, PLEASE...I'LL
DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!
DON'T KILL ME!

WE WON'T HARM YOU!
WE NEED YOUR GRAND-
FATHER CLOCK TO GO
FORWARD IN TIME, BACK
TO OUR OWN ERA!

BUT WHO
ARE YOU? LET
ME LIGHT A
MATCH!

**BUDDY
HACKETT!**



YOU'RE BUDDY HACKETT, WHO TRAVELED BACK
IN TIME TO HELP SHAKESPEARE WRITE HIS
MASTERPIECES?...BUT WHY?



I'VE ALWAYS GARGLED IN THE
ARTS...SCULPTURE, OIL, POETRY,
THEATRE...ART WAS MY FIRST
LOVE...THEN COMEDY.

WHY, IF THAT EVER GOT OUT,
IT COULD RUN MY CAREER!...
NOBODY COULD EVER STOMACH
A COMEDIAN WHO IS ALSO
A SERIOUS ARTIST!



AHH... AND YA KNOW, NOBODY RESPECTS
ANYTHING UNLESS IT WAS WRITTEN LONG
LONG AGO... IF IT AIN'T OLD, IT AIN'T GOOD!
AND I AGREE! I FEEL SO CREATIVE, SO FULL
OF INSPIRATION IN THESE OLD DAYS!



AND ANYWAYS, WHO WOULD
TAKE A FACE LIKE MINE SERIOUSLY
IN OUR AGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY
AND TELEVISION?



THAT'S ALL OKAY,
BUT YOU GOTTA DO US
ONE BIG FAVOR!



THE FOLLOWING MONDAY
IN ENGLISH CLASS...

... AND SHAKESPEARE AND I
WORKED WELL TOGETHER...WE
WERE A GOOD TEAM, LIKE MARTIN
AND LEMMON, CAGNEY & LACEY?...IT'S
JUST THAT MY PERFECT PARTNER
LIVED OVER 400 YEARS AGO...

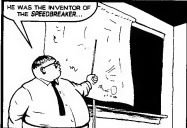


AND SO PROFESSOR...
YOU SEE SHAKESPEARE
DID NOT WRITE ALL HIS
PLAYS AND SONNETS
ALONE...

AND HE WAS PRETTY MUCH
A HACK, A HAYSEED, AND A
WILLBILLY?...BUT HE WAS
VERY INGENUOUS, AS WE
SEE HERE IN THESE PRO-
JECTED BLOWUPS
FROM HIS LOST
NOTEBOOK...



HE WAS THE INVENTOR OF
THE SPEEDBREAKER...



...SOAP ON A ROPE, CLOTHESPIN ON YOUR NOSE TO
DETER BAD ODORS, PANELING FOR DENS AND REC-
ROOMS, GAG JOKES ON COCKTAIL NAPKINS,
SLIPPING ON BANANA PEELS...



THIS IS INSANE! ALL SO
RIDICULOUS! I'VE LOST MY
JOB FOR SURE NOW!

...AND SO YOU SAY
THAT SHAKESPEARE AND
HACKETT WERE A TEAM?

COULDN'T A
DONE IT WITH-
OUT HIM?

WELL, DOGWOOD? THIS IS QUITE
IMPRESSIVE/IT SEEMS I WAS
WRONG AFTER ALL...YOU CAN
HAVE YOUR JOB BACK.



The
End